GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3464
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2016
Earth Science Research
Kaswan Shri Rahul

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any measures to strengthen earth science research in Indian Universities and think tank organisations and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the challenges being faced by the Government in the field of earth science research and documentation in the country;

(c) the details of the inter-Government and international agencies which have collaboration or associations with the Government to strengthen and innovate the earth science research;

(d) whether the Government proposes to introduce Masters level university programmes in the core and diversified areas of the earth science studies in various universities in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY)

(a) Yes Madam. The ministry is supporting the following academic programmes :

â€¢ User Oriented M.Tech Programme in "Ocean Technology" in IIT Madras.
â€¢ M.Tech & Ph.D. Programme in Atmospheric-Oceanic Science and Technology in IIT Delhi.
â€¢ M.Sc. course in Ocean and Atmospheric Science at Centre for Earth & Space Sciences, University of Hyderabad.

(b) The challenges include the development of required infrastructure with High Performance Computers (HPC), Aircrafts and research ships including polar research vessel, development of technology for the exploration and sustainable harnessing of marine living and non-living resources and development of skilled and trained manpower in Earth Sciences with the support of academic institutions in the country and abroad.

(c) Under bilateral and multilateral international agreements with various Government agencies in the field of Earth system science, the Ministry supports research proposals, joint observational campaigns, joint development work, exchange of resources personnel and training abroad, workshops etc. Projects being implemented under these collaboration provide excellent opportunity to students/researchers to work and interact with foreign researchers, visit their labs etc.

â€¢ Under a MoU with Belmont Forum countries, Indian Scientists are supported for international collaborative research through joint calls in societal relevant global environmental change challenges.
â€¢ Under an MoU with the Natural Environmental Research Council (NERC), the research institutes are participating in joint observational campaigns for studying the various processes involved in understanding the monsoonal behavior. Under this MoU, research institutes are part of projects funded by the ministry for undertaking research in Monsoon, Atmospheric Pollution and Human Health, Changing Water Cycle.
â€¢ Under the MoU with Research Council of Norway, the research institutes are part of the various projects being funded by the ministry for undertaking research in Polar Research and Geo-Hazards.
â€¢ The Ministry has launched a mission mode program such as Monsoon Mission wherein various national and international agencies work together to improve prediction of the monsoon in various spatial and temporal scales. In addition various flagship programs such as Metro Air Quality, Climate Change Research including atmospheric Chemistry wherein the researchers/scientists from universities and research institutes working in these projects get hands-on experience on the sophisticated equipment's through participation in field campaigns, laboratory experiments and data analysis /modeling techniques etc.
â€¢ India has signed an Implementing Agreement (IA) to become a member country of the International Energy Agency - Ocean Energy Systems (IEA-OES). A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Ministry of Earth Sciences and the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC) to establish and promote cooperation between in the field of marine and earth science and technology.

(d) No Madam.

(e) Does not Arise.